BY THE MOHAMMEDANS.

tersh's Vow Agninst Hagar and How Abraham Enubled Her to Fulall It-Men, Women and Children is Many Lands Adora Their Ears.

The Mohammedans have a curious legend to account for the beginning of the custom of wearing earrings. They say that Sarah, being jealous of Hagar, vowed that she would not rest until she had imbrued her hands in the blood of her bondmaid. Abraham quickly pierced Hagar's ear and drew a ring through it, so that Sarah was able to fulfill bor rash vow without danger to the bondmaid's life.

From that time, they say, it became customary for women to wear earrings. The story of Rebekah's earring is only one of many early Biblical aljusions to the ornament. When Aaron made the golden calf, it will be remembered, he called upon the Israelites to "break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons and of your daughters and bring them unto me." And out of these and other golden ornaments the calf was made. From this it is plain that earrings were worn by the Hebrews without regard to sex or age.

In Great Britain the familiar ornaments have been worn for many centuries, and not by women only. Charles I., it is said, wore pearl earrings of considerable value and the day before his execution took one from his ear and gave it to Bishop Juxon for transmission to his daughter, the princess royal. Rabelais says that it was in his daythe era of Henry VII. of Englandthat men in France first began to wear earrings.

It is worth noting that at least one existing portrait of Shakespeare represents him wearing such an adornment. This is at Wentworth Park, Yorkshire, and shows the poet with mustache and beard and an earring in his left ear. is hardly scientific. Lord Sherborne possesses at Sherborne House, near the old world town of Northleach, a portrait of one Thomas Dutton, a sixteenth century worthy, who is represented, says his lordship, "in the prime of life and wearing a remarkably fine pearl in his left ear. The Nowadays few men wear them save some sailors and fishermen and navvies. Among the people of the south-

ern part of Europe their use by both sexes is more common and often begins at an early age. In Spain babes' ears are bored soon after birth. The family doctor performs the operation and inserts a gold ear wire. Boys wear these ear wires till they attain manbood, when the wires are removed. The idea is that the process has a most beneficial influence on the eyes.

A Spanish woman writes, "Ophthalmia and scrofula are rare in Spain, and the natives maintain that freedom therefrom is owing to ear piercing."

In Portugal and Italy and frequently in France children usually have their ears pierced at an early age. Many men in the south retain their earrings after reaching manhood. Cardinal Mezzofanti, famous for his powers as a linguist, is said by his biographer to have worn them from infancy as a preventive against an affection of the eyes to which he had been subject.

The popular notion that piercing the ear exercises a beneficial influence upon the optic nerves is widespread. An English traveler of little more than a

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# Hardware

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century ago noticed that many men in Vienna wore earrings and was told they were worn a good deal for the eyes, "the hole in the ear and the weight of the earring drawing any humor in the eyes to those parts," which | much more gorgeous than its successor

the good effect of ear piercing on the eye just as firmly as their like in Italy and elsewhere abroad. In fact, in some places ear piercing is regarded by the rustics as a remedy for many troubles. At the other side of the world boys right ear is not shown, but presumably have their ears pierced from a different tions says that John Chinaman pierces his little boy's ears and makes him wear earrings, for if an evil spirit happens to see him be will mistake him for a girl and will not take the trouble to carry him away .- London Telegraph,

> Celebrities at the Breakfast Table. Dean Pigou, in his book of reminiscences entitled "Odds and Ends," tells a good story of the time when literary breakfasts were the rage in London.

> A lady who had risen from the ranks, and whose husband had realized a large fortune, affected what she had neither been born to nor could ever really feel herself at home in. But she desired to be "in the swim" and suggested to her equally ignorant husband that they should give a literary breakfast. The invitations were issued and several people of light and leading assembled at the breakfast. The discussion at the table was on the comparative merits of Cicero and Demosthenes. 'The hostess listened intently for some time and ultimately, as the conversation became more animated, she called out to her husband at the other end of the table;

"Husband, dear, take down at once the names and addresses of these two gentlemen and let us invite them to our next breakfast."

#### Growing Aches and Pains.

Mrs. Josie Sumner, Bremond, Tex., writes, April 15, 1902; "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment in my family for three years. I would not be without it in the house. I have used it on my little girl for growing pains and away. I have also used it for frost bitten feet, with good success. It is the best liniment I ever used." 25e, 50e and \$1 00. Sold by W. M. Johnson, Gainesville, Fla., and J. C. Bishop, Alachua, Fla.

A Russian Sentry.

In 1859 the Russian emperor saw a soldier in the middle of a grass plot in the palace grounds. Why was there a daily guard, relieved at stated intervals? No one knew. Curiosity was aroused, and at last a veteran was discovered who remembered hearing his father say that the Empress Catherine -she died in 1727-once saw a snowdrop in bloom at that point unusually early and asked that a guard be stationed there to protect it. And there a sentinel remained for at least 132 years; no one knew how much longer."

### A Creeping Death.

Blood poison creeps up towards the heart, causing death. J. E. Stearns, Belle Plaine, Minn., writes that a plus 50 cents for the round trip. Stopored dreadfully injured his hand, which swelled up like blood poisoning. Bucklen's Arnica Salve drew out the folders, rates and full information call and healed the wound, and mond. poison, healed the wound, and saved on or write GEO. E. HERRING, Fla. his life. Best in the world fee burns Pass. Agt. L. & N., 208 W. Bay Street, and sores. Me at all drug stores.

The Early Une of Skates.

Holland is said to be the home and birthplace of skating, and without doubt skating was first practiced there and in the far north. In a country of lakes and canals the necessity of walking and running on ice must have been felt from the earliest days. In Holland they show the bone skates which were found in one of the mounds of which a Friesland village was built. The skates were fastened to the feet by straps passed through holes which were made in the bones. A Danish historian mentions the sport in 1134. The bone skates were also first used in England. A writer in his account of the amusements of the young people of London in the twelfth century mentions the fact that it was usual for them to fasten the leg bones of animals under the soles of their feet by tying them around their ankles; then, taking a pole shod with iron, they pushed themselves forward with great rapidity by striking this pole into the ice.

Aunt Chloe and the Dinner.

Mrs. McJarvis had invited a number of friends to dinner, but the cook left her on the morning of the appointed day without a moment's notice, says the Chicago Tribune.

In this emergency she hunted up an old friend of the family, Aunt Chice, wife of Uncle Ephraim, and asked her to take the cook's place.

"I'll cook de dinnah, missis," said Aunt Chioe, "if you'll give me wot's

Mrs. McJarvis agreed, and within a few hours the dinner was well under way.

Later in the day she visited the kitchen.

"Why, Aunt Chloe," she said, "I have only five persons to entertain, and you are cooking everything there is in the house! What is that?"

"I want to make sho', missis," said auntie, "dat dere'll be sum'n lef"."

#### London's First Omnibus.

The first London omnibus was really of today. It was an imposing vehicle, Village folk in England believe in | beautifully decorated and painted, with accommodation for twenty-two passengers inside, and was drawn by three bandsome bays, driven by a smart coachman in livery, and its conductor was gay in a blue cloth uniform, like a midshipman. This conductor, by the way, was the son of a naval capbe wore a corresponding earring in it." motive. A writer on Chinese supersti- tain and spoke French so well that it was quite common for the poke bonnet ed young ladies from Paddington to ride as far as the city and back with the object of improving their French by chatting with him. The fare from the Yorkshire Stingo, at Paddington, to the Bank was a shilling; halfway, sixpence, and newspapers and books were provided for the passengers .--London Globe.

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